

## TITLE OF THE INVENTION

PROCESSING FOR REASSIGNING PRINT JOBS FOLLOWING PRINT  
ERROR IN DISTRIBUTED PRINTING

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## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a printing system in  
which printing is performed by distributing a print job  
10 among a plurality of printers or a plurality of devices  
such as copiers having a printer function.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 In a distributed printing system known in the art,  
a single print job that requires the printing of a  
plurality of pages or a plurality of copies is printed  
by being assigned to a plurality of printers or to a  
plurality of devices such as copiers having a printer  
20 function (these devices shall be referred to as  
"printers" below) connected to a network. Using such a  
distributed printing system makes it possible to print a  
plurality of pages at high speed.

In a conventional distributed printing system,  
25 however, it is difficult for the user to ascertain which  
printer will print out information and how the  
information will be printed out. As a consequence, when

all pages cannot be printed owing to a problem such as depletion of paper in a printer for distributed printing, the pages of the printed matter become mixed and out of sequence if reprinting is carried out by  
5 changing the destination of print data from the faulty printer to a normal printer automatically. As a result, collecting the printouts and putting them in the proper order becomes a difficult task.

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#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been made in consideration of the situation described above and an object thereof is to provide a distributed printing  
15 system for performing distributed printing by a plurality of printers or devices having a printer function, wherein the system is controlled in such a manner that printouts can be collected and put into proper order easily even in a case where a problem has  
20 occurred in any of the printers or devices during printing.

According to the present invention, the foregoing object is attained by providing an information processing apparatus comprising: recognition means for  
25 recognizing a status of a printing apparatus; and decision means for, in a case of assigning at least a part of a print job which is assumed to be printed by

the printing apparatus to another printing apparatus in accordance with the status recognized by the recognition means, deciding the other printing apparatus in accordance with a paper ejection type of the other printing apparatus.

According to the present invention, the foregoing object is also attained by providing a printing system for performing printing by controlling a plurality of printing apparatuses comprising: recognition means for recognizing a status of a printing apparatus among the plurality of printing apparatuses; and decision means for, in a case of assigning at least a part of a print job which is assumed to be printed by the printing apparatus to another printing apparatus in accordance with the status recognized by the recognition means, deciding the other printing apparatus in accordance with a paper ejection type of the other printing apparatus.

Further, the foregoing object is attained by providing a control method comprising: a recognition step of recognizing a status of a printing apparatus; and a decision step of, in a case of assigning at least a part of a print job which is assumed to be printed by the printing apparatus to another printing apparatus in accordance with the status recognized in the recognition step, deciding the other printing apparatus in accordance with a paper ejection type of the other printing apparatus.